

Mr. Dowdall's  
Just and Sober  
**VINDICATION,**  
In opposition to several  
**INJUSTICES**  
Practised against him,  
by some of his  
Fellow Prisoners

IN A FREE  
ELECTION  
OF  
WES<sup>MIN</sup>STER,  
Although  
Reputed Priests, Jesuits, and Suf-  
ferers for Christs sake.

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THE  
Epistle Dedicatory.

To the most Virtuous, most Pious,  
and most charitable Ladies, the  
Relievers of poor Prisoners, during  
the late Troublesome times, for  
Religion.

**N**Othing appears more Splendent  
in this World, than the Heroick  
Actions of Men, by which they Conquer  
Nations, Destroy their Enemies, and  
consequently, free themselves from Slave-  
ry and Tyrannome, becoming thereby,  
not onely an everlasting Glory to Posto-  
rity, but also to the Countries and Na-  
tions from whence they descend.

All those, most Virtuous, most Pious,  
and most Charitable Ladies, you have  
far surpass'd by your unparallel'd Good-  
ness, Piety, and Liberality. Alexander,  
the Great Conqueror of the World, has

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own'd the same, saying, That who overcomes himself, is more Praise Worthy, then he who takes by force of Armes the strongest Townes or Cities.

It is known to those that have Travelled most parts of Europe, that none has practised all the degrees of Virtue more than you these three Years last past; and this is to overcome ones self. You bear your Crosses chearfully; you thanked God as well in your Adversities, as in your Prosperities; you succoured your distressed Neighbours; you Comforted the Comfortless; you Visited the Sick; and you did not abhor the noisome Smells of Goals, but afforded your Almes as showers of Gold to poor Prisoners; and the Dead you Buried with Joy: These are the Works of Mercy, recommended by our Saviour Jesus Christ, the which acquir'd unto you more Honour and Glory, then ever Conquerors deserv'd; for what doth it avail one, to gain the whole World, with

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with the loss of his Soul? By these good Acts, your Memories ever remain, both in this, and in the World to come. By these you are a Mirrour to future Ages, and which is more, you have by these prepared to your selves an everlasting habitation with God and his Angels in Heaven: For as Water quenches Fire, so your Almes and good Deeds have extirpated the Root of your Sins. Now you will find verified the words of Christ, That what you have done for one of these little ones in Prison, you have done it for Him. All this while 'tis to be believ'd, that all these forementioned great and ample works of Piety, has been grounded on true Charity, which is understood to be done for Gods sake alone; For what is practised on other respects, as for kindred, friendship, or for any other worldly Interest sake, or out of a natural pity, carries its whole reward of good Name or Fame along with it. For my part, I am fully perswaded, your Intentions in bestowing

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your Charities, are sincere and real, for  
the Love of God only; as a certain Wid-  
dow I knew, who had but an hundred  
pounds per annum Joyners, gave forty  
thereof to Relieve poor Prisoners. Pray  
give me leave to tell you, that your will  
and pleasure in the distribution of your  
Charities, is much abused; You have  
one end therein, and some of your Ser-  
vants or Trustees another; You intend  
doubtless, that your Charities be divi-  
ded to the Honour and Glory of God,  
according to the Prisoners necessities  
and Qualities; But on the contrary,  
your Trustees, resolves to give the same  
to those they love and fancy most, but  
whether that be well or ill grounded, God  
and their own Conscience must be Judge.  
There are some detained Prisoners for  
want of Monys to procure their Habeas  
Corpus, and to pay their Chamber Rent;  
but you had rather contribute so much a  
week for the Release of such Prisoners,  
then allow them a maintenance in Prison;  
but your Trustees wholly reject such pro-  
posalls,

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possess, by which they bind the Prisoners Liberty, and put you to unnecessary charges for their Maintenance: One or two of them gave your Majesties freely to discharge the expences requisite for the Release of a Stranger they had a kindness for; and another at the same time and place, and on the same account, although well known to most Catholicks in Town, could not prevail to have a penny from them. Happy is he in these dayes, that is young and handsome, which some of your Trustees regard more than the fulfilling of your pleasures; yet to justify themselves in their Extravagancies, must needs alledge some unjust reasons for what they do, to the great disparagement and damage of the Prisoners, whose grievances (and what else they can say for themselves) cannot be heard, so that they are often censur'd, even by their best Friends, though without any just Cause, or the least shadow of Truth, contrary to the precepts of true Charity.

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Now, least by somes neglect in a work you undertook so grateful to God, you should loose any part of your expected Reward from him, I thought it worth my labour, and your knowledge, to give you a particular account of some passages concerning certain Prisoners, and the managers of your Charities. Men and Women while they live in this world have their failings, and where you find either of them to transgress, be pleased in your accustomed Bounty, to be impartial in your judgments, and let right take place: If you judge charitably, (as I hope you will) and conuicerate their weakness, God will deal with you accordingly, and your works will shine an Earth, as it doth in Heaven: In both which places, wishes you and yours from his heart, the greatest Joy and Comfort that can be.

Most Vertuous and Pious Ladies,

Your ever obliged, and most  
thankful Servant,

Gerard Dowdall.

Mr. Dowdall's  
JUST and SOBER  
VINDICATION, &c.

For the Satisfaction of all Impartial  
CATHOLICKS.

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C H A P. I.

*Beloved Friends,*

IT is no Scandal to the Catholick Religion, to have the Vices of some pretended Members thereof discovered. The only way to Refine the Church of God, is to separate the good from the Evil; 'tis by that the destructive Members are distinguish'd from the sound ones, otherwise the one would corrupt the other, as one scabby Sheep doth the whole Flock. The best Experienced Artists are often deceived in the tryal of Gold by Fire and the Touchstone,

the same also, if it be very good, must be malleable, and endure *Aqua fortis*: So it is not a sufficient motive to believe men true Priests or Jesuits, because they wear Priests or Jesuits habits, and say Mass, shewing outwardly signes of Devotion (as Hypocrites do) 'Tis therefore necessary, that their Lives and Conversations witness what they pretend themselves to be, otherwise they are to be suspected as Seducers, and disturbers of the Peace of honest Men; such were some Companions of mine in the *Gare-house* Prison of *Westminster*, although reputed Sufferers for Jesus Christ's sake, when on the contrary, they have practised the greatest Injustice that could be, more becoming Heathens than Christians, more suitable to Infidels than Catholicks, and much less to reputed Priests and Jesuits; as the impartial Reader may judge by this following discourse.

Now

Now, that every one may know the necessity of this Relation, they must yield, that the Laws of God and Nature, obliges every one to defend himself, yea, to Kill, rather than be Kill'd: If then it be lawful for every one to defend his Body, much more is it just to vindicate his Reputation from Calumnies and Detraction, which renders a man odious to the World, and in a worser condition than if he had been quite out of it. I hope then none will be scandalized at this my Defence, altho I touch my Adversaries to the quick, and make them Shamefull to the world, for their little Charity, and great Injustice, grounded altogether on Lies, Calumny, and Detraction.

The first grounds of prejudicing me, was a difficulty propounded to me by a Person of Quality about seven years ago, concerning God and Christian Religion: besides the satisfaction I gave him then, I directed

to him one Father *Parvillet*, an Eminent Preacher then in St. James's, belonging to *Don Francisco de Melos*, the *Portugal* Ambassador, and I myself argued the whole matter with a Religious man, a stranger then in Town, for to give a greater satisfaction to the said Nobleman next time I saw him ; the aforesaid stranger, as I was inform'd, held a dispute with an *Irish* Priest to the same purpose, who afterwards acquainted one *Melchior Power* his Countryman, and a reputed Priest, of what pass'd ; this *Melchior* envying my Prosperity, a year before those Troublesome-times, assures my friends, underhand, that the said Noblemans difficulties, to me propounded, were my own Principles and Opinion, although I never convers'd with him half a quarter of an hour at once in my life, no, nor ever was under the Roof of an house with him that I know, unless in a Chappel or this Prison, and yet by his undermining

mining me, I lost my employment with the Marquess of *Montecuculi*, and an expectation of a Preferment by his means, worth one hundred pounds a year, being actually employ'd therein; and as one Evil commonly followeth another, there was no ways to deprive me of this Preferment, but by getting the Elector of *Cullen* Resident to perswade me his Master recall'd me to my former Employments in his Court; after I went thither, I found no such thing; but the Resident having incur'd thereby his Highness displeasure, was forc'd, in his own defence, to write the whole circumstance, how he was set on: By which Relation (although the greatest Lie imaginable) the Prince is so incens'd against me, that I lost all future expectation in that Court, having formerly had therein two considerable Employments; the Reward of which, was usually a Chanonry of two or three hundred

Bundred pounds a year during life ;  
I being onely at first retyr'd from  
thence for health sake. I lost by this  
Journey all the Moneys I had, four  
Suits of Cloaths, and fifteen changes  
of Linnen, and all my Friends at  
home and abroad. Afterwards, for  
a livelyhood, returning to my Na-  
tive Country, I came to *London*, where  
the said *Melchior Power* was so suc-  
cessful by his calumny, and framed  
Lies, in robbing me of all honest Re-  
putation, that among all my former  
Friends, one onely excepted, I could  
not obtain six pence to bear my  
charges in the rest of my Journey ;  
and therefore by tarrying long on  
the Road for want of Moneys to go  
with conveniency, I lost all good op-  
portunity of Wind and Weather, so  
that at last these troublesome times  
suddenly coming on, I was taken  
Prisoner on suspition of being one  
*Ireland*, a *Lancashire Gentleman*, and  
afterwards brought hither to the  
*Gatehouse*,

Gatehouse, where charitable CatHo-  
 liks relieved me bountifullly, which  
 the said Melchior Power, there also  
 in custody, suddenly prevented, by  
 relating to other Prisoners, reputed  
 Priests and Jesuits, the former Ca-  
 lumny of my Principles and Opinion  
 in matter of Faith, who living also on  
 Charity, and therefore as jealous as  
 he of my Gains, joyned with him in  
 confirming the same to our Benefa-  
 ctors; upon which false Information  
 I lost them all on a sudden, so that  
 afterwards I scarce had a penny from  
 any I ever knew before; insomuch  
 that those who sent me word at first,  
 they had Gold and Silver at my ser-  
 vice, would now have no correspon-  
 dence with me, or so much as accept  
 my Letters. Among others, a cer-  
 tain Lady sent to me, that such a day  
 she would send me three Guinnies,  
 the which my Companions under-  
 standing, presently got the Lady to  
 be inform'd of their Calumny and

Lies

Lies of me, to which the Lady giving credit, sent them the three Guinnes, who gave me not one penny thereof. Another Lady I served three years, who hath bestowed Eighteen pounds on me since my Departure from her house, understanding the said false Reports by the said *Melchior Powers* means, would not now in Prison give me one penny to Relieve me.

Neither was it to be admir'd, that Strangers flinch'd of, when two Gentlewomen of my own Country, and of old acquaintance, with another special Friend, coming to see me, being prepossest of Mr. *Powers* Calumny, did so suspect I should do them a Prejudice, that they seemed to tremble in my presence, so that one of them was always sure to stand between me and the Door, least I step'd a side to have them apprehended. Thus my Friends being alienated from me, the report of my bad Principles and Opinion, in matters of

Faith,

Faith, began to die, so that at the Years end, there was not a word heard thereof, until the Countess of A. understanding I was the only Prisoner for Religion that lay on the Boards, offered not only to pay my Chamber Rent while I was to be a Prisoner, but also what Debt I owed until then, which so gal'd my companions, that fearing I was coming again to favour, they put their heads together how to clip my Wings.

First, that Evening they sent to me one Mr. O'Callane, (who own'd himself publickly to be a Priest) letting me to understand, that he was sent by the other four of my companions, to acquaint me, how by Writing my necessities to Friends abroad, I rob'd them of their shares of what I was to have from the aforesaid Countess. I desir'd him to assure them, that in the Faith of a Christian, to the best of my Memory, I did not write of my necessities to any whatsoever, in a quarter

quarter of a year at least: That the said Lady was altogether a stranger to me, that I never sent to her directly or indirectly; that I was then ignorant of her Name and Quality, yet this did not give them any satisfaction, for the Night following, they employed the same Messenger, with other Instructions to the same purpose: At this I was not a little offended, answering, that I would discourse the matter before them all: The next day I told them, I was much concern'd at their incredulity, after the Oath I took: That in case I should have acquainted some abroad of my necessities, that would be no unjustice done them, being a whole year before deprived of all Relief from former friends, by their calamities and Lies: That I was indebted for Lodging, and therefore forc'd to lay on the Boards Twenty six weeks. That I was credibly inform'd, that one of them got about an hundred pound.

pound gains since his Imprisonment: That I should be glad, if he and the rest had got ten times so much. That they also ought in Charity to wish me well, and not to be so incens'd for Gods Providence towards me. But all I said avail'd nothing, for three of them, being chief Leaders, and acquainted with a great many Persons of Quality, easily perswaded the two others to side with them: All five unanimously, without the least ground of truth, informs the said Countess with multitude of Lies of me, and got Mrs. Catherine Sheldon to second them; they prevailed so far with the said Lady, that she would never afterwards pay one penny of what she promised for me. I must confess, the want of a sufficient livelihood was no small trouble to me in a Prison, where every thing is sold at a dear Rate, and where one cannot send for the worth of two pence, but must pay the Messenger, and this out of

of six shillings a week, my whole allowance for Meat, Drink, Firing, Candlelight, Washing, and the repairing of Cloaths, the rest I give for my Chamber Rent, or else I must have layn on the Boards in the Common side: In truth, all this was the least of my troubles, knowing well, the more my Body suffered for Gods sake, the greater my Reward in Heaven would be hereafter: the consideration thereof, made me rather Glory, then to be any ways troubled at my Imprisonment; but to be back-bited by inhuman Tongues, sharper than Raizors, who have no more Mercy than the worst of creatures, perplexes me more, then by any human Art I am able to bear, especially when I consider, that my Reputation, which I ever prefer'd before all the Happiness of this world, is unjustly stained by the calumny and malice of the forementioned reputed Priests and Jesuits, who persecuted me for lucre.

lucre of Monys, and self Interest sake, as the Impartial Reader may judge, since they never attempted any thing against me, but when they believed I had extraordinary Releif from Friends or was in a likelyhood of obtaining some, which hapned to me but twice, to wit at my first coming to the Prison, as I said before, and a twelve month after when the said Countess promised to pay my Chamber Rent, the onely two times they vented their Mallice against me.

To prevent for the Future the like abuses occasioned by the too much credulitie of the Female Sex, especially to Churchmen, or so reputed, let them know, that these are Men as others are, Subject to all human Frailities, as if they were never such, although by their Profession they ought to overcome their passions, but to say they all do so, is too much presumption, therefore we must yeild some bad among them, and every

of

of them to have their imperfections, to wit, one has one failing, and another other failings. Who then is of so little Sence or Reason, as to believe that all these Frailties are to be approved off, because committed by such Men? If one of them be Naturally self Interested, or Passionate, or Revengful, or inclined to any other particular Vice, ought we then to side with them, and maintain their Iniquities, because they have other good qualities, as some graceless Women have done much to my prejudice: No, God and the Catholick Church hates Vice, and the Upholders thereof, for certainly 'tis no small Sin to defame unjustly a man that bears the Characters of honest Principles: I do not doubt but such evil Mouth'd Creatures incurs the wrath of God more then Robbers and Murtheres in the high ways; 'Tis certainly better for one to loose his Life, then his good Name. My

Adver-

adversaries by stayning my reputation bereived me of my livelyhood, and of all future preferments hereafter: All this while I do not deny but I have been to blame in some things; I know being highly provoked, the effect of Passion moved me to say that whitch I did not my self approve of soon after, for one Mr. O. Bryan, (of whom we shall speak at large hereafter) being in great distress, entreated me to beg some assistance for him from my Companions, who upon motion thereof, willingly condescended, excepting Mr. Melchior Power, who answered, he needed as much as any in Prison; I only said, if it was so, he was much bely'd, for the common report was, he had Forty Shillings a week setl'd on him by four Persons whom I nam'd to him, as I was inform'd, but his answer was, I invent'd the same my self, and consequently I was a Babler. I must confess I was so vex'd therat, that I did not

not know whether I ought rather to Bridle my hands more then my tongue, but I did not indeed touch him, although it had been according to his deserts. I own it was my destiny to be unjustly persecuted by some Churchmen, but that the impartial Reader may be as well a Judge of the occasion thereof, as my self, I will set down some Examples.

Of Mr. *P A R S O N S*.

The Second of my Companions in the *Gatehouse* Prison who persecuted me, was one Mr. *Parsons* a reputed Priest: This Gentleman setting his *Passion* a side, is a good natur'd man, but is so transported with Natural Pride, or rather a Lofty Mind, that he is impossible to be pleased by some, unless they yeild wholly to his humors; let others be ever so well qualified, those dispositions I discovered in him from the very beginning; and therefore judg'd it most necessary to comply with him, as with one born

in this Kingdome, and extreamly well beloved, especially by Ladies Gentle-women, who commonly brought what Charity we received. 'Tis true indeed, he was a proper handsome man, in the prime of his Age, more agreeable to some in his own Person, then in that he was reputed to be, which was no small advantage to him in the said distribution of Charities.

The first distaste he took at me, was discoursing of ordinary matters, as about the *Mathematicks*, and the Customs, Fashions, Education, Judgment, and common Breeding of all sorts of People in most Countries of *Europe*, in all such occasions, he seemed much offended, if contradicted in the least, although I might presume in some difficulties to be his Master, I mean as concerning the *Mathematicks*, in which he was altogether ignorant; yet he us'd to side with others, as unknowing as himself, against me in such Subjects, although I taught

that Science for some years; so that rather then to hear me prove the matter by clear Demonstrations, he was wont to fall into a passion, calling me a wrangling fellow; but what ever the reason was, from that time forward, he bear me an antipathy; he was sure afterwards, on all occasions, to snap and correct me, as if I had been a Boy: I could justly say, I hardly din'd five times afterwards in his company without some affront: he was not ashamed to tell me to my face, that I seemed never to have frequented any Gentlemans company; That I did not know to cut my meat, that he was forc'd to teach me my manners; all that while I never shewed any displeasure, but put it off with a jest, onely once I replyed, that it was strange that one who was seventeen years Governour to Earls, Lords, and Knights Children, and had two considerable Imployments in the Prince Elector of Cullens Court, did not

not know how to behave my self in his presence ; besides, I had my Education among the best Gentry in Spain, France, Germany, and Italy, and more in years then any of that company, yet he compacted so with others of my Companions, that a whole years time I was for'd at Meals to sit at the lower end of their Tables, but finding neither there any quietness, I abstained wholly from their Dinners, losing thereby my share of above 40 bestowed on us in common ; at last I sent to him, that since I could not eat with him in peace, I should have my share a part, the which he denied for a quarter of a Year, at last he ordered me some of their Receptions, which I could not eat. no bori

All this while he had constant visitors from the said Women and others, all which he dissuaded so much from me, that they would not afford me one civil word, some attacking me with unbecoming Language for concern-

ing my self with their ordinary discourse. 'Tis licence to be conjectured what prejudice he has done me in the distribution of the Charities, since all were delivered, either by his Favorites, or given him to be devided as he thought fit, although the intentions of the Donors were otherwise, and that every one should have according to his necessities and quality, but things were carried on otherwise.

The holy Scriptures assures us, that as we treat others, in like manner shall we be dealt with also. Behold how God has permitted this Gentleman, one of the principallest Authors of my misfortunes, to be confounded. To defame and prejudice me, he took hold on every groundless and silly report he heard of me by any sotry creature whatsoever. These he has set forth in the best colours he could invent, in confirmation of what he perswaded folks of me. Afterwards getting out of Prison on Bayle, he went

went to one Mr. *Hyens* his house in *Hereford-Shire*, whose Maid being with Child, declares him to be the Father thereof: And although I really believe him to be wrongfully accused, because I hear both he and his Friends recant their rash Judgments of me heretofore, not doubting, but I was calumniated then, as well as he is now. Yet none can deny, but God afflicts him in the same measure as he did me: But since he ownes his fault, I forgive him, although I shall never be able to rub off what prejudice I received by his means.

It was my general Remark, that whosoever were his friends (although ever so great mine before) became at last my Foes, no, nor would they afford me a good look: What Character then has he given of me, but the worst that could be? and often in my own presence, though not hearing, he made his calumny of me a Subject of Laughter to his company. About

this time he procur'd licence to con-  
 verse daily with other Gentlemen  
 Prisoners on the same score in another  
 apartment, call'd, *High-Park*, from  
 some of whom, I had some times re-  
 lief, but by his going thither, they  
 became as averse to me as he, which  
 I learn'd afterwards by woful expe-  
 rience; for having also liberty to  
 frequent the same place, I renewed  
 my acquaintance with one Mr. *Turner*  
 a reputed Jesuit, formerly a Schollar  
 in the same Colledge I studied in; I  
 offered him all the kindness I could  
 express as to one belonging to those  
 planes I had part of my Learning and  
 Education from; the which he seemed  
 much to slight, being already cor-  
 rupted by the said Mr. *Parsons*. The  
 second time he took more notice of  
 me, but the third time I was sent for  
 to his Chamber by the foresaid Coun-  
 tress, who promised (as I said before)  
 to pay my Chamber Rent. She was  
 pleased to perswade me to take my  
 Lodging

Lodging among the rest, until I gave her Ladiship reasons to the contrary, withwhich she was so satisfied, that she wish'd me agree for my lodging where I pleased, and she would see it paid.

OF MR. T U R N E R.

After her departure, I returned to the said Mr. Turners Room, who told me, my discourse with that Lady was not either like that of a Christian, a Gentleman, or a Philosopher, alleadging there was no Truth in what I said, and that all the Prisoners could justify the same: I answered, that I would forscit my life, if every word I said was not true, to wit, that the Chamber proposed to me, had a most noy, some smell, when the wind was on a certain side, the which would prejudice my health. That it would be a great mortification to me, and an hindrance to my Studies, to lay in an open place, the receptacle of all commers and goers. That I naturally delighted to live retiredly. That I

was offer'd one of the best Rooms in the house to me alone for the same rate : His answer was, I had Maggots in my head ; that I was totter-headed, with other reproachful words : and to be brief, he told me, if I did not remove willingly to the place the Lady mentioned at first, I should be hal'd thither : I desired to know for what, which he said was not expedient to tell me, and therefore I must resolve to concur. I reply'd, that I never made profession in any Religious Order, and consequently was not tied to the Vows of obedience. That by his discourse I conceived there was some evil aspersion cast on me ; that it behoved me to clear my self thereof before I removed, least by condescinding first to their demands, I seemed to the world, I own'd my self guilty of I know not what. That I was the oldest of all the company, excepting himself : That I was come to years to know my own conveniency better.

better than any of them could direct me. I press'd both him then, and the rest afterwards, to let me know what they had to say against me, with protestations, that if I did not clear my self of what ever was to be laid to my charge, I would submit to what they pleased, and beg them pardon on my knees for my resistance, they all answered, both generally and particularly, they had nothing to say against me.

Why then have I been mangled and torn alive in a thousand pieces a whole years time, by the venomous Tongues of so shameless a Generation of men ? who by the same mouths uttered hundreds of calumnies against me in private, now to my face publickly disowns the same. Where are those Proselites whom they have implored to aggravate their wickedness all the Kingdom over ? Behold the Knavery of those you honoured so highly, and lov'd so dearly : You

have sided with their Iniquity, and also justified their Calumnies with flourishes of hundred lies, which God will never forgive you without restitution to me first of my Reputation.

To proceed further in the Malice of my Companions, the aforesaid Countess, according to her promise, came with the Moneys I was to have for discharging my debt in Prison, but the Gentlemen, notwithstanding they assured me they had nothing to say of me, as I declar'd before, yet they gave such a bad character to the Lady of me, that they caused her to carry back the Moneys again, alleadging that it was first necessary I remove my Lodging to the foresaid stinking Room; on this resolution they imployed Mrs. Catherine Sheldon thrice to me in an hours time, to let me know what was concluded; I told her, if the occasion of my removal was the flying reports spread of me by my Companions, it behoved me to justify.

justify my self, least by complying to their humours, I might give occasion to the world to think me guilty of their false aspersions. That if it was to the end we might live all together, I would condescend to remove in an hours warning. The third time I said I would yield to what she pleased; with this she brought the foresaid Countess with Moneys for me, which she gave Mr. *Church* our head Goaler, assuring him, in the presence of four more, she would pay my Chamber Rent for the future while I was to be a Prisoner. The same day I removed my things to the place appointed, thinking to lodge there that Night: No sooner did I get among them, but I found it was not my company they look'd for, nor any thing else but a pretence to hinder me of the Ladies favours; so that on a sudden they set Nic-names on me, making me also believe Mr. *Tanner* would speak with me, when at the same time he was asleep.

asleep, and had not asked for me: Forthwith I concluded it was impossible for me to enjoy peace among those that designed to cross and abuse me; therefore I resolv'd to tarry where I was: Yet conversing with them daily in the common Room, when there was no offensive smell, I was no small Pastime to Mr. *Turner* for some days; who finding no other object of his Jests but me, made use of my Name above forty times in each hour; adding, that Women in *England* that never left their Chimny-corner, spoke better than I do after all my Travels. That none in the house were such great Hoggs in their Cloaths as he and I: That the rest were well vers'd in Philosophy and Divinity, but he and I were the onely moams in the Prison, with an hundred other like sour Jests: But in this we were ill met; for altho I forbore with his doings for quietness sake, yet I thought often I never met with so undiscrest a man of the Society

ciety before ; I wonder'd at the Mans little prudence, or rather great impudence, to press familiarity on one that never spent an hour in Recreation with him in my life time. I could not imagin wherein a man I knew to be of no Parts, no Traveller, no Linguist, no Historian, and scarce worth the Name of a Schollar, should ground such confidence, for Lattin he durst not speak, the Mathematicks he knew not, and for any other knowledge, I am sure he has but little. I composed on a Pious matter some Latin Verses, wherein I left on purpose some notable faults, to see his correction ; but his opinion was, they were all very good, much admiring I could make them without the affiance of Books.

To be brief, when I found at last no end of his insolent Jests, I spoke to him one day in a very moderate manner, telling him, I admired at his little wisdom, in breaking his Jests  
on

on one of my Age and calling, as if I  
were not *compos Mentis*. That if he  
did but reflect on himself, he would  
find Beams in his own Eyes, for the  
Mots he perceived in mine: at which  
he started, suddenly asking; how's  
that? I told him ingeniously, without  
the least sign of Passion, that the se-  
cond time I enter'd his Chamber, I  
took notice, that it was his disorderly  
drinking occasioned his tedious Sick-  
ness, which was enough to kill a Hogg;  
for in the Morning fasting, he call'd  
first for a Glass of Canary, next a  
Glass of Rhenish Wine, after that a  
Glass of Claret, all which overheat-  
ing his Stomach, he call'd at last for  
a Glass of Beer, a Medicine indeed  
that would Kill me in one Months  
time; hereat he retir'd to his Cham-  
ber, two days after he sent to me the  
forementioned Mr. Cullane, advising  
me to ask him pardon on my knees,  
and to tell the standers by, what I  
said to him were Lies, or else he would  
write

write to all my Benefactors, not to send me a penny Relief. I answered, sure Mr. *Turner* is in his Jesting humours again, and so took no further notice of it. The next day he desir'd one Mr. *Maccarty*, now condemn'd for a Priest in *Newgate*, to bring me the same Message: I answered, since he is in earnest, I will speak to him, so going to his room, I said, Mr. *Turner*, why would you send me such Messages for a thing I did not offend God venially, and although I said nothing but the Truth, yet I concern'd myself in that same against my inclination, only to divert you from making me the Subject of your Laughter. Then he replyed, Mr. *Dowdall*, you stand to what you said, I advise you to ask me Pardon on your knees, and to declare openly, what you said of my Drinking was false, or else I will write to all your friends not to send you a penny maintenance. I ask'd him, if he would have me tell a Lye,

or

or if he thought the world was to be rul'd by one Jesuit, and so departed; but my Gentleman was as good as his word, for ever after I scarce received any assistance towards my livelyhood, but what one Lady sent me weekly, whom he endeavoured to dissuade also from Relieving me.

Now to accomplish his design the better, he made use (among others) of the said Mrs: *Catherine Sheldon*, one of the best Friends I had before, as I own'd it to her and her Sisters by two or three Letters I writ to them, on suspicion had of their displeasure with me, but the instructions of Mr. *Turner*, and my other companions, wrought so much on the former, that my Letters (although the most obliging I could Pen) were not accepted as good enough for waste papers; so that she did not only retract from me the usual Charities given her by others as well for me, as any else; but thence forth made it her business to do me all

all the prejudice immaginable, as if she was the chief party concerned; altho' she her self cannot tell what I did to disoblige her, unless she took a pert. I did not remove my Lodging when my Companions would have me. Yet she caused the foresaid Countess, that promised to pay so solemnly my Chamber Rent, not to give me one penny ever after. I may dare lay there is no Catholick Lady of any Quality in *London*, whom she did not, either by her self or by others, incense against me.

Once a certain Lady of my acquaintance sent her five Guinnies to be given me, and having soon after writ again to the said Lady for some assistance, towards my Bayling forth, she sent to me her Woman, to know whether I did not receive the said five Guinnies from Mrs. Catherine Sheldon, I answered, not a penny, and while the said Lady sent me some more Relief, the said Mrs. C.S. or her Sister, went

Went to her, rayling at me in such a manner, that the Lady said, she wish'd she had thrown her moneys in the *Thames*, before she sent it me. One of her objections was, that I fiddle faddle my moneys away, because I gave 50 shillings for a Morning Gown I wore instead of Cloaths I wanted, but she thought so much monys well spent by one of my Companions; she wish'd well for a Silk flower'd Waist-coat, although he was but a Serving-mans Son, and that my Father has had a considerable Estate.

Neither was she satisfied to make what use she could of her own tongue, but employed her Sister *Frances*, Maid of Honour, who was altogether a stranger to me, to incense the Q. and her R. H. against me, to the one I was recommended by a special Letter from the Prince Elector of *Cullen*, my former Master, and to the other by the Marquess of *Montecuculi*, Resident from the Duke of *Modena*. All this

this while I knew no better Remedy, than to take a Hair of the same Dog that bit me. I therefore applied my self again to Mr. *Turner*, declaring, that if he did not Reconcile such Friends as he alienated from me, to me again, I would complain of his Injustice, to others of the Society.

Before I sent away either of the two Letters I writ to that purpose, I acquainted him therewith, desiring we might be Friends, which he rejected, saying, *Do your worst*; but imagining him to be in a passion, I kept one of the said Letters in my Chamber about three weeks, and the other near six, pressing him also by others to a Reconciliation: Then indeed he seemed to be so well satisfied with the Information given him by one Mr. *Parsons* an Inferior Officer in Prison, of the Injuries done me by the Lies of Envious persons, that he said, *He would never give credit to any evil said of me any more*; yet afterwards, when Mrs.

*Catherine*

*Catherine Sheldon* assur'd me, that if my Companions would give it under their hands, that they were satisfied, I should Lodge where ever I pleased; she would procure the said Countess to pay my Chamber Rent, according to promise. Whereupon I writ this present Certificate in their Names.

*We whose Names hereunder Written, do think it most just and reasonable, that Mr. Dowdall layeth in what Room soever Mr. Church our Gaoler affords him for his better convenience.* And although I added underneath, that by subscribing to this, all our differences would be at an end, and without this, I should be again forc'd to lay on the Boards, yet Mr. *Turner* and Mr. *Parsons*, denied to set their hands to it, without giving me any reason thereof, onely Mr. *Parsons* said to his Namesake the Turn-key, that by thus subscribing, all the blame of our differences would be laid on them.

Let then any indifferent Person be judge,

judge, if this be a Christian like answer; do not we know that a Sin is never forgiven without restitution of Honor and Goods, if it be in our power. Are those fit to guide other Mens Souls that maintain and practise such unjust Principles? They Persecute the Innocent, they rob him of his Reputation and Livelyhood, and yet at no times will they do him Justice, least themselves be found guilty of an Errour.

But why do I wonder at those proceedings? when I often said, that in all my Travels, in most Kingdoms of *Europe*, I never was Eye-witness to more tricks and knavery then I have seen practised by the forenamed Companions of mine in this Prison, altho reputed Priests and Jesuits. I often said, if I knew no more of Christianity then I learned from them, I would choose rather to be a *Turk* than a *Catholick*. I alwayes compared them to so many *Mountebanks* in a Market place,

place, where each one makes the best of his Druggs: how jealous then may we justly suppose is each one of the others gains? Even so were my five Companions, or rather Adversaries, concern'd at the distribution of Charities, when Ladies, or their Women, frequented more one than another; but with this distinction, that the *Mountebanks* have more Grace than to defame one anothers Credit or Reputation, although they may exclaim at each others Druggs: But my Companions made it their whole busines, to Defame, Back-bite, Detract, and Calumniate each other, drawing thereby all the profit to themselves. There was one of them so ingenious, that whilst he and I walk'd in a certain Room, a Gentlewoman call'd (to my hearing) for my Name, but he being next the door, said to her, Madam, I am also on the same score, will you please sit down, and although I told him in another Language,

Language, I heard her call for me,  
he answered, I will tell you another  
time; but then he plaid his part so  
well, that in my own presence, he got  
the Money brought for me. He was  
indeed a pretty young man, but let  
me tell you, no *Mannetchanck* could  
deal more cunningly. I could have  
easily forgiven him and the rest such  
small faults as this, or any Money  
business, if they did not prejudice my  
Reputation and good Name: They  
knew well there was but little to be  
done, unless I was quite out of favour,  
which could only be, by giving very  
bad Characters of me. In this Mr.  
*Turner* was a very great Instrument:  
Among other Lies divulg'd of me,  
he affirms, that when I went to School  
at *Liege*, I had my Diet at Citizens  
houses for Charity, when I take God  
to witness, I never eat or drunk with  
any of them, no, not upon any occa-  
sion whatsoever, to the best of my  
memory, but what for my Compa-  
niens

nions paid for. He also saith, he gave ten shillings to one of the *English* So- ciety for me. I own I got some monys from one of them, for copying two Books in vacant times, which I earn'd well, without any obligation to him, a man I never spoke a word to, but in this Prison. There was lately in this Kingdome, one of that Colledge that boarded in the same house I did, who can testify, that there were not three of twelve *English* boarders then in that Town that had better Meat, Drink, and Lodging, then I have had, and yet I must be calumniated to my face by the said Mr. *Turner*. It seems he makes no scruple in such things, for one day discoursing of a certaine matter, I might lawfully Swear, he told a dozen Lies, and the day following, he absolutely deny'd he ever said any such thing ; you may guess his little Conscience by this. A certain Gentlewoman having moneys to bestow among those that were most in want

want in the Prison, addressing her self to the before named *Melchior Power*, who it seems told her, that Mr. *Tanner* had what moneys he wanted from his own friends, at which he was so incens'd against the said *Power*, that he said to one Mr. *B.* a Prisoner, that he would never have any Charity or kindness for him: Whosoever desires to be further inform'd of him, let them but enquire his manner of life in *Derby-Shire*, and they will be further satisfied, although some certain Women here in Town now honour him as an Oracle; who much con-  
demn me, that when he removed from this Prison, to the Masters own house, I refused to approach him, never considering, that his pretence of taking leave with me then, was only a fained Complement; he having a whole quarter of a year before rejected all proposalls of a Reconciliation, or any satisfaction of Honour or Damages. If they had but then

discretion after hearing one party, to give ear to the other, certainly I could not be so abus'd as I was. In this a certaine Gentleman, that brought me the only allowanee I had for my livelihood, behav'd himself wisely, for after Mr. *Turner* made use of all the arguments he could invent, to have this same Charity taken from me, the said Gentleman desir'd to hear what I could say in my owm be half, which so confounded all the former Calumny, that he seemed to be much scandaliz'd therat, saying to me afterwards, must we for trifles seek another's destruction, and defraud him of his Livelyhood?

Of Mr. *THORNE*.

But while I was clearing my self, one *Thomas Thorne* a Catholick, heretofore both Groom and Butler to a Gentleman in the Country, and then a Prisoner for Treasonable words, was extream insolent in his discourse to me, denying also that he told me what moncys

monies Mr. *Parsons* got in Prison, although I took God to witness several times, he assured me that great Charities were brought to Prison, and detained by some particulars, that he himself saw with Mr. *Parsons* in one paper Twenty five Guinnes, and in another Thirty four or Thirty five Broad pieces, besides several heaps of Silver, carried away by his Sister the Shoemakers Widdow; all which the said *Thorne* denying, I confirm'd by an Oath on the Bible, that he told me so, but whether he said true, I did not know: This fellow likewise took his Oath on the same Bible, he told me no such thing, treating me besides with very uncivil Language; and the more I wish'd him to be quiet, the more impertinent he was: I rose up with an intention to box him, but Mr. *Parsons* being in the way, held me in his Armes, which the said fellow perceiving, and that one hand could not assist the other,

most treacherously gave a snak at my little finger, and turn'd it quite backwards, the use of which, I am like never to enjoy: I would not have blamed him to use me worse in his own defence, had I but once touch'd him. This fellow at his first coming to Prison, was counted an harmless Fool, but before his departure, became a cunning Knave, and as greedy of gathering moneys, as a Hawk is at his Prey. I could declare some other notorious and unheard of misdemeanours he committed in Prison, but I judg it a subject not worth my labour.

I beseech all good Catholicks to take notice, that this Fellow hath ever since boar me so great a spleen, that he makes it his business, being now at Liberty, to invent most horrid Lies of me, without any cause, or the least shadow of truth, as God of Heaven is my witness; yet I do not at all think strange, if such an ignorant fellow as he is, should do worse,  
being

being instructed a whole year in the like practises, by such as by their profession ought to do well. Happy then are they that are born of Honourable Parents, whose Sons would scorn to be Authors of such shameful doings, as my companions practised against me, for the sake of such inconsiderable gains; contrariwise, the best of these, I believe, never saw better days then in Prison; Mr. *Turner* is known to be a Ministers Son, Mr. *Parsons*'s Father was onely Servant to a Lord, Mr. *Power* was a common Souldier in *France*, and at *London*, and so silly a one, that a Souldier that went to relieve him, finding him a Sleep at his Sentry, perswaded him that one of the great Guns was stoln, which as is said, *Power* apprehending a great deal of danger he was in, gave the other Souldier mony to be Silent.

The two others were strangers in the Kingdom, and oppos'd me, as I suppose, only to comply with the rest,

both of them of a most obscure generation, which one comprehending, and believing himself more obliged to Nature then to his Birth, borrowed so much credit of his Neighbours, as to make himself not a little look'd on.

Now that the Reader may be satisfied, that others (as well as those already mentioned) have the like failings, I will add some few Examples. At my first coming to *London* from his Electoral Highness of *Cullens Court*, I undertook a preferment at the *Venetian Ambassadors*, I being well vers'd in his Language: who thereupon suddenly entertained me, which four or five Fryars of that Family envying, went thrice against me to have me out of my imployment: The Ambassador acquainted me therewith, also asking what particular knowledge I had with them, and how long, I told him, I was not above three weeks in Town, all which time I never was in either of their

*Courts*

Companys, nor did I believe they e-  
ver saw me but in his house, yet said  
he, they bear you malice, but you  
shall not fare the worse for that,  
contrarywise, you shall have Autho-  
rity over them whilst they depend  
on me.

When these could not prevail with  
the Ambassador, they employed o-  
thers of their own profession to one  
Doctor Warren a very honest Gentle-  
man, who alone was to give Testi-  
mony of my good behaviour while I  
was in Town, being a stranger to all  
the rest; desiring him not to counte-  
nance me, but rather to have me out  
of Town, as he told me afterwards;  
Adding also, how he enquir'd what  
they had to alledge against me, and  
that they replyed, I was a stranger  
to them, and therefore not fit to be  
prefer'd in such considerable Employ-  
ments as I enjoyed: some years after  
I hapned to be a Govermour to a  
Young Lord, which also gal'd them

much, for one of them acquainted  
 my Lord *Almoner* of an-Arch-Lie,  
 to wit, I left the Maid of the house  
 I lived in with Child, uppon which  
 the said *L. A.* went straight ways  
 to my Young Lords Mother, desiring  
 her Lordship to Banish me out of her  
 house for the reasons aforesaid. The  
 Lady admiring that he should know  
 the concerns of her house better then  
 her self, presently examin'd the mat-  
 ter, and found that his Lordship was  
 as guilty as I was of what he said,  
 and that the Maids she then had,  
 were never suspected before of any  
 dishonesty: I desir'd reparation of  
 honour and good name of my Lord,  
 but he beg'd my pardon, assuring  
 me he would never any more be-  
 lieve stories of me, being twice be-  
 fore guilty of wronging me, in pre-  
 ferring his own Friends to my Im-  
 plement, for which he was once  
 check'd by the *Q.* but he came off  
 as ill as he begun, declaring I had  
 depen-  
 claim

dependancy of a Lady of ill repute, yet his Lordship prefer'd one of his best Friends to such an other preferment with a Lady of a far worse report.

I could mention many other like Examples, touching my self, which I leave out for Brevities sake. Let us then conclude with the Scriptures, that whosoever thinks himself no sinner, is a Lyar: If therefore all men be breakers of Gods holy Commandments, since the just offends him seven times a day, why then should any justifie them in their evils? as many tatting Women publickly maintain'd what Calumnie soever my Companions reported of me, out of some Natural kindness, or some good opinion they conceiv'd of them: I know love and hatred perverts most Men and Womens judgment; I know the love some of the said Women bear to my Adversaries, and the hatred they conceiv'd of me for their

foakes, made them do me all the pre-  
judice immaginable; and now I am  
forc'd to stoop under the weight  
of so great a burden, languishing  
for the wounds their Lies and Ca-  
lumnies gave to my Reputation; the  
which I ever prefer'd before my Life,  
wishing rather to dye, then to be  
defil'd.

Some judicious men understand-  
ing how many Rivalls I have had at  
all times, (began as they told me) af-  
terwards to conclude among them-  
selves, that surely I must be a man  
of great parts that was so much en-  
vyed; as if one of little capacity  
would not be regarded or taken no-  
tice of, much less fit to be prefer'd  
before them; I only told them in my  
own behalf, that I would undertake  
to teach Mr. Power and another of  
my Adversaries, as yet two years  
their Latin, and to instruct all the  
five in the *Mathematicks*, and in three  
Foreign Languages, yet they were

to me as so many Doggs in a Manger, neither minding themselves of any Studies all the year long, nor permitting me to divert my self according to my inclinations therein; having before I was crost'd and tormented by them, compos'd three Books in Prison, one of *Heraldry*, another of the *Mathematicks* and the third a *History Book*, notwithstanding it was resolved, unless I forsook all conveniences of Studies, and was controul'd, or rather led by the Nois by them, I should be depriv'd of the payment of my Chamber-Rent, and loose my share of the Charities gathered for Prisoners; all which was afterwards punctually observ'd by calumniating and belieyng me all the City and Country over.

The Reason I have so often accus'd them of Lies, is, because if they told but truth, they could do me no harm. They are also guilty of Calumny, Detraction, and Back-biting, although

what they invented of me was true, because none can discover another Mans crimes, unless publickly known without a Mortal sin; for the holy Scripture saith, *If your Brother or Neighbour offend you, admonish him of his faults between him and you privately; if he amends not, correct him before Witnesses; if he rejects also this, complain of him to the Church, or his Superiors; if then he is not Penitent, let him be to you as a Reprobate.*

Not one of my Companions followed this Precept, although I put them in mind thereof, begging for Gods sake they would tell me what it was they heard or believed of me; each of them answered, as I said before; *Nothing*; upon this I intreated a certain Lady of Quality to reconcile me to the foresaid Countess, but she sent to me, that nothing could be done; for the five reputed Priests and Jesuits (my companions) had given so bad a Character of me, that she was wholly incens'd.

incens'd against me. 'Tis true indeed, before this honourable Countess promised to pay my Chamber Rent, I lay on a Quilt on the Boards, but with this satisfaction, that the Master of the Prison knowing my little ability, said he would be satisfied with eighteen pence a week ; but the said Countess having promised him the payment of my Chamber Rent, in what Room soever I lay, I am ever since ingaged in five shillings a week, without any likelihood of payment, or to have the advantage of my said Quilt on the Boards without three and six pence a week ; so that the promise of the said Lady, is no small prejudice to me : All which is contrary to the good opinion I had of *English* Catholicks, whom I have heretofore extol'd above all others I knew, both for their Piety, Charity, and good Examples, especially in these times of Troubles, which I really believ'd were sufficient motives to appease the Divine

vine Wrath, and manyfold afflictions they lay under. But now, what construction can I make of these precedent vertues, when on a sudden I see them decline their good Principles, as if not well grounded therein.

I sent to some Ladies of Quality, a brief account of the former transactions against me, the which they did reject with a great deal of indignation and unbecoming Language, not believing one word I writ. One was so offended with my defence, that she sent my Letter open to me back again, but seeing there was nothing therein but what concern'd me to let all Catholicks know; therefore I directed her Ladiships Letter to her Butler and Cook-Maid, desiring them to let others, their fellow Companions, know the Contents thereof, and how the Unjustice of my Companions were countenanced by most Catholicks in Towne.

How then can they expect that  
God

God will hear their complaints and grievances in the times of Sorrow, since they are Upholders of Injustice and Wickedness themselves. They pretend to be much injur'd by the false accusations of their ill Wishers, and yet make no scruple to justify the Calumny maintain'd against their Brother. They blame their Neighbours for giving credit to the false Reports of their Enemies, and themselves are as willing to believe for Truth, any Lies invented against him, whom God and the World knows to be Innocent in what he is accus'd. They seem to have Faith, that God will confound the first Authors of their Sufferings, but do not think it Damnation to themselves to Rob another of his good Name and Reputation.

For my part, I commiserate the weakness of these Catholicks, who think it lawful to do any thing which Church-men persuades them. Yet I am:

I am rather of opinion, that they are led by some natural kindness, or some other Interest, or else they would never be so blinded, as to prejudice him that never did them the least diskindness, either in thought, word, or deed. Now I begin to consider, that one of the Gentlewomen that oppos'd me so highly in a thing which did not concern her at all, was so passionately in Love with one of my Adversaries, that whensoever he appear'd, her countenance chang'd into divers colours, using Congies more becoming a Court then a Prison, and much less to a reputed Priest. I wish they were both where they list'd, an hundred Miles off, and that I had never seen either of their faces. I am the more confirm'd in this opinion, by a late example of a certain Widow who contracted extraordinary friendship with one of our fellow Prisoners for Religion, and who bestowed on me also part of the Charities she gathered;

thered; but her friend understanding I was much offended with him for writing underhand to Mrs. Catherine Sheldon, something to my prejudice, as I believe, onely to curry favour with her, he and I being intimate friends, declared to the said Widdow the displeasure he conceived of me, by which I am sure to loose her friendship for the future, having thereby already lost twice or thrice my share of the Charities she collected. I know from an Eye-witness how their intimacy is grounded, but I will omit that, and such like causes of my sufferings, as not becoming Cage or Goal-Birds (as we are) to foul their own Nests. This I assert for Truth, there was not one Saint among them, and that each of their failings did ballance what ever they could justly accuse me of from first to last.

'Tis with me as with a great many, who fare worse by looking over a Hedge, then others do by stealing either

either Horse or Mare : I have been from a Child as sober as any could be, being never once half fuddled in my life time. All that knows me can witness, I never drink but when I eat. I never was inclin'd to Swearing, cursing, or Wrangling; but so far from that, that I naturally delighted in solitariness, insomuch, that very seldom I walk'd with a companion, or was seen in an Ale-house, Tavern, nor at a Club above thrice as yet; having never taken either Snuff or Tobacco; when I am in my Chamber, I must be imploy'd in something. It was always natural to me, to do as I would be done unto; yea, to serve others beyond the bounds of true Charity, having an hundred times, out of a natural pity, given to the needy what I wanted for my self. I esteemed it cruelty to deny my good word or labour, where I could serve my Neighbour. I could have counted once Forty that liv'd by my Recommendation, when

Finstructed Gentlemens Sons in their houses ; and now I cannot find one to go in an Arrand for me. I had such an abhorrence for Lying, that I never esteemed so much any ones Friendship, as to tell a Lye to gain his favour, or to shun his displeasure ; esteeming those that are subject thereto, not fit for Human conversation. Honest and Just dealing, was a natural Principle in me, never desiring in buying the Seller should loose his gains. I ever fancied to pay my Creditors before I went to Bed, when I had it, as every one that knows me can testify, I prefer'd a good Repute before any worldly happiness, in order thereto. I kept no company but those who were fit for the best sort of Gentry. Perhaps in this I was somewhat too shie or nice, for which I got ill will, especially when I lived in Families, where I never eat at any ones second Table, unless in the Prince of *Cullens* Court, where all Noblemens Sons were.

were my Companions, and that eight of his Highnesses Livery men were to wait daily on us at Meals. As for my inward Conscience, I leave that to be decided by God alone. This I know, if I dissembled and play'd the Hypocrite, as some of my companions did, I should have a hundred times more Money and Credit than I have ; most of my Companions being famous in both, could act what they listed without exceptions.

Each of them could with Authority Nobly Treat one Young Woman or other, of very ill repute, all day long in their Rooms : It was not worth taking Notice of, if one of them sent for more Bottles of Wine and Brandy in one day, then I drank Beer or Ale in a whole Week : Either of them might lawfully call two or three of their young Devotes, their Wives, and as many more their Misses, who used to call them Husbands and Gallants in like manner ;  
the

the rest of the young Women must be their Sisters, and such as were elderly their Mothers. Yes, our holy Patriarck Mr. *Power* himself took the Liberty to lock himself up dayly in his Chamber for some hours with a young Woman he pretended to be his Neece, although a condemn'd Priest in *Newgate*, his own Countryman has openly affir'd there is no such Relation between them. A Gentleman of good Credit did assure me that one of the Women this Godly man us'd to have commonly lock'd up in his Chamber, boar a Bastard to one of his acquaintance, who kept her for his Miss some years. Notwithstanding all this while I do not accuse either him or the rest of any evil, although they defam'd me publickly without quarter such occasions given; one would think that those who took such Liberty themselves, ought to be the more indulgent in censuring others: But what can be expected

expected from People of no conscience, but cruelty: they made a God of their pleasures, the which they knew they could not enjoy without Money, and therefore they resolv'd to have my share between them, which would be considerable, by reason of my great acquaintance in Town: And because, in my Passion, I threatened to bring them and their Calumny to question, nothing must satisfy them but my Life, or a perpetual Imprisonment; as it will appear in this following Treatise.

## The Second Chapter.

### How my Companions endeavoured to Bereave me of my life.

It is a general Remark throughout the World, that the worst of Men, are those who formerly practised virtuous Principles, and afterwards decline from the same; the reason is very plain, for some are Naturally so proud, and have so good an opinion of themselves, that they scarce give glory to God for the graces they receive, as if all the good Deeds they did, were properly attributed to themselves; and therefore in place of pitying their Neighbours failings, or giving thanks to God, that they were not so destitute of his graces and favours as they, they scoff at their weakness, censuring them often beyond

yond their Desarts; when in Charity they ought to Pray for their Conversion. By this presumption, and other faults annexed thereunto, they incur God's displeasure; and thus loosing part of the superabundant graces they enjoyed before, presently they fall from one sin to another, until at last, God leaves them wholly to themselves, and then being destitute of all grace, they plung into all manner of Vice, not unlike to a Thunderbolt, devouring where ever it comes. Thus by Pride and Presumption, the bad Angels were thrown out of Paradice, and becoming Devils, are made instruments to punish the Offenders of Gods holy Laws.

I know none more fit to be compared to them, then my forementioned five Companions; their Education doubtless was Vertuous, their Breeding could not be otherwise, they being instructed as Schollars, and received (as is supposed) to Dignity, which did

did so puff them up with Pride and Presumption, that they forgot not only the former Slavery of their Birth-right, but also to render God thanks for their present condition. God then having abandoned them, there is no Evil but they are ready to embrace : Behold then how they aime at my Life, for saying, *I would Prosecute some of them to the utmost of the Law, unless they gave me satisfaction for what Injuries they did me.*

Nor was Satan wanting to their endeavours; for a certain Woman I kept in Prison from Starving, together with her Sucking-Child, she being at Liberty, beg'd me for God's sake, to continue my Charity, until she and her Sick Husband recruited themselves of their losses and damages; I told her, when she or her children wanted Bread at home, they should, as formerly, have a share of my Dinner: her eldest Daughter, about Eight years old, I sent with my

D Arrants,

Arrants, until at last, I took notice of her growing too confident among the Prisoners, throwing ones Hat, and another's Periwig off, and that I could not get her away when I desir'd it, always pretending, she durst not go home, without bringing something to her Mother: upon which, I warn'd her said Mother, in presence of Neighbours, to keep her Daughter at home, which being some hindrance to her, doubtless provoak'd her to do me what prejudice she could, unless I presented her with some Money. There pass'd seven or eight weeks without any disturbance, until at last she heard I was to be Bayl'd out, so that very day I was to give Bayle at a Judges house, she sent her said Daughter a purpose to Trap me, whom I met as I was going forth, I said only to her, I am going abroad, I cannot speak to you now. From this day forth, until about three weeks after, she never came to my Chamber

her alone : That day being *Munday*, she told me they wanted Bread at home, and that her Mother wish'd her to come to me, that she might not also go fasting to School in the Afternoon : I gave her the remainder of my Dinner and a penny, wishing her to call me a Neighbour she knew, without expecting to see her any more, but within an hour after, I met her in the passage to my Chamber, letting me know, that the Woman I sent for, went away by Night, leaving the Key under the door, enquiring besides (laughing) what I thought became of the penny I gave her, then she told, how her Mother eating nothing all the day before, took it from her, and bought therewith Sheeps Trotters for her dinner ; I pitied her so much, that I borrowed a Groat of a Woman that cleans'd my Room, and sent the Child immediately therewith to her Mother, without entering my Chamber all the while.

The *Thursday* following, being the last day she ever came to me, both she and her Sister came to Dine with me, alleading they had nothing to eat at home: After Dinner they were so unruly in the Prison, that some wondered I would countenance such Brats, but having relieved them so long, I would not desist now I was to depart; but the wicked Mother intended to stop my design, for the *Saturday* following, she came to my Chamber, declaring I intended to Ravish her Child, being not a little astonished at her Impudence, and dissembling countenance, I wish'd her be gone like a wicked creature as she was. I presently concluded, that this Woman, having once said such a thing, might perhaps have the Impudence to design the proof thereof, and might on purpose do her Child an Injury to put it on me. To prevent which, I entreated the Master of the Prison to get a Justices Warrant for the

the Mother and the Child, that the latter might be search'd by a Midwife; all which was perform'd in an hours time: The Midwife, after a full view of the Child, declared to the Justice, that there was nothing on her, but what was usual to hundreds, even from their Birth: That it was no more then any Child might have by running up a pair of Stairs, or at Play, of which the Justice made so little account, that he openly said, it would come to nothing. To be sure, I made preparations for the worst, the which Mr. *Church* our Keeper understanding, often said to me, that for a Groat he would stand Tryal for me, wishing me not to trouble my self about any thoughts of that nature. Yet I imagin'd that in a matter of such importance, I could not be too sure, I therefore employ'd one Mrs. *Carpenter a Catho.* lick, (by chance then in Prison) to procure another discreet Midwife, of

long Practise, and good knowledge, to view the Child for more Evidence, who instead thereof, got a Young Woman, called Mrs. *Assu*, and only a Deputy Midwife, to behold the Child, without letting me speak to her before hand, contrary to my directions; both these began to persuade me to give my Adversary a piece of Moneys to quiet her, in hopes to get a share to themselves, being both extream needy. I told them, it was not the opinion of such a young Midwife I look'd for, and as for my Adversary, I would expect satisfaction from her for the Injury she had done, and knowing my self Innocent, would rather Die than give her one penny to be Silent.

I desir'd also another Catholick Woman, by name Mrs. *Tant*, to find me out another experienced Midwife to inspect the Child, and to witness what she ayled; this told me she knoweng Mrs. *James* also a Catholick

(a very

(a very ingenious Woman) who took the Oaths, only to dissemble with the Times, and therefore might be very serviceable to me: My answer was, that if ever she, or any belonging to her, expected any kindness from me, it would be on condition, that that cunning creature should not have any thing to do in my affairs, which she promised very often she would not: yet as if Mrs. Carpenter and she were agreed upon it to do me a prejudice, so that Mrs. Tent also, contrary to her promise and my will, brought the said Mrs. James to my Adversary, being also but a Deputy Midwife, and afterward had the confidence to bring her to my Chamber, and to wish me give her half a Crown for her pains, although she was not suffer'd to behold the Child, I ask'd them by whose direction they were employ'd, and so dismiss'd them.

Now I began to believe for certain these Women were hired a purpose

to ruin me ; they intruded themselves in my concerns what ever I did to hinder them : Yea, the said Mrs. Carpenter, after all the warnings I gave her not to meddle any more in any thing belonging to me, brought me, notwithstanding about the same time one Mrs. Ogle a Catholick, who by all means would have me compound with my Adversary ; I pray'd her to take no care thereof, for that I was advis'd to the contrary by an able Council ; but seeing she would not desist encouraging my Adversary with promises of procuring her a Reward to be silent, I writ to Mr. Aston her Brother in Law, entreating him to pray her forbear meddling in my concerns, but all in vain ; for some days after, this Mrs. Ogle, and Mrs. Carpenter, came to my Chamber, acquainting me that they sent the two forementioned Deputy Midwives, Mrs. James and Mrs. Asch to my Adversary, to bring her to composition, I much

I much admired their confidence, enquiring by whose Authority they did incroach so much on me, letting them know, that what they did, was enough to find me Guilty, though the most Innocent in the World : whereupon I desir'd a certain Woman I met in Prison, to recall the said Midwives, and to declare to my Adversary, that I renounced any composition offer'd her in my Name ; the two Deputy Midwives then came to my Chamber to meet the other two that employ'd them, where I rayl'd at their impudence, in meddling with my affairs without my own consent ; Mrs. Ogle (after all) wish'd them return back again, and compound the matter without me, since I was not to contribute a penny to what was to be given, adding besides, I was fit for *Bedlam* for refusing such offers ; little, as I suppose, imagining that my Adversary was engag'd to Prosecute me, and would have brought

their moneys as a Testimony, to condemn me, and thereby to have my Life.

I thought it to no purpose to oppose any longer these obstinate Womens Resolutions; I then began to reason the case with them, and how it behoved me rather to bring my Adversary to just Punishment for scandalizing me, since God, my own Conscience, and many Men and Women were Witnesses of my Innocency. And for their further satisfaction, I desired God to shew no Mercy to my Soul, if ever I enter'd that Childs Body a hairs breadth, as was reported, or ever intended any such thing. The two Midwives being pitiful poor, as also Mrs. Carpenter, who liveth on Charity, knowing, that if they came to composition, themselves would go snacks, with my Adversary. They were going by Mrs. Ogles directions to know the least she would accept of. I followed them until they came to

to the Common side, where I desired all the Prisoners to take notice, that those two Women were going to componnd with my Adversary without my consent; upon this they returned in a fury to my Chamber among the rest, where I did not go, until they departed.

Mrs. Ogle after all, being perswaded with these three Indigents, lost no time to encourage my Adversary with hopes of some moneys, the only thing she aimed at, who therupon made it her business daily to get part thereof in hand. How they agreed I do not know, only I was told, that my Adversary in presence of Mrs. Ogle desired the Justice that issued out his Warrant against me, to withdraw her Action, and that some body in Malice perswaded the Child to accuse me, but it seems the Justice engag'd her to a Tryall.

Now, the two Midwives, mad I did not yield to a Composition, assur'd my

my Adversary, if she Prosecuted me, they would be both Witnesses for her at my Tryal, where none besides them two and the Child, with her Mother, appeared against me, that ever saw my face before; yet I was cast upon the sole Oath of the said Mrs. *James*, a Catholick Deputy Midwife, brought to be my Witness by some pretended Friends of my own Religion; all the rest onely said, *They saw the Child in such a manner*; which less reflected on me, then on any else, she being abroad among all sorts of people. Mrs. *James* took her Oath, I own'd the Fact to her, in presence of four more, and that I offer'd Ten pounds to smother it, although the said four, to wit, Mrs. *Pennay*, Mrs. *Ogle*, Mrs. *Carpenter*, three Catholicks, and Mrs. *Ascu* a Protestant, could witness her to be Perjur'd; as also five or six Prisoners, having never spoken to her but twice, onco when Mrs. *Tent* brought her to my Chamber, wishing me

me to give her half a Crown, and the second time in the presence of the said Gentlewomen and Prisoners, yet none appear'd at Court to justify the Truth. The Prisoners could not, without so many *Habens Corpus's*, which the Justices of the Peace had no Authority to grant, nor was it in my power to be at the expences thereof: The Gentlewomen pretended they durst not be seen, least they should be put to trouble for their Religion, although I took my Oath I would not call for their Names before I had obtain'd a Promise from the Court not to molest them, so that I was brought in guilty of a Trespass.

And thus I had lost my life by Mrs. *James*, if the Grand Jury had found the Bill to be Fellony, of all which, I conceive the said Catholick Gentlewomen to be as guilty as the said Mrs. *James*, since they engaged her in my concerns against my will, and that they refused to justify the truth of what I said.

On.

On my side there were above twenty Protestant Witnesses besides Catholicks. One Mistris *Watson* the most reputed Midwife in *Westminster*, and who viewed the Child, the very first day by order of a Justice of Peace, with two Women more of very good credit and repute, and very Skilful in Midwifry, took their Oaths before the Bench, that the Child as far as could appear to the best experienced Midwives was never touch'd by man, that what was seen on her was incident to hundreds of Children by Playing or running up stairs.

I had in Court four Certificates under the hands of four different Parties, who examined the Child in the beginning a part, quite different one from the other: At my Tryal she learn'd another Lesson contrary to all the rest; She added, that Striving with me, she tor'd my Ruffles, altho' there was in Court

the

the Seamster from whom I bought them; and my Wash-woman; the one was ready to Sware that she made me but the Ten payers then produc'd in Court; and the other, that the said Ten payers, which she washed often, were all the Ruffles I had, which never wanted the mending of one stitch with a Needle.

The said Child was taught to say, that a certain Woman heard her cry, when I offer'd violence to her, which the same Woman not onely deny'd, being not in my Chamber in six or seven months before this Report, but also told in Court, that my Adversary, with her Husband, offer'd her moneys to say so.

The Child being demanded by the Court, how often did I attempt to abuse her, she said only twice, to wit, the *Munday* before her Mother accused me, and about three weeks before that: Now every one may see the wickednes of this Childs Mother, who,

who, contrary to my orders, sent her Daughter to me, as I have reason to believe, purposely to Trap me: 'Tis true, the Child came twice to my Chamber alone in Eleven weeks time, that is since I warn'd the Mother to keep her at home. The first time was the day I went to give Bayle before a Judge, but then she did not enter my Room, as seven Men and Women were ready to Witness, whom I left in my Chamber going out when I met the Child by the way, but had not leisure to ask what she came for.

The second time was the *Munday* before mentioned, when I gave her the penny, for which her Mother bought Sheeps Trotters, and afterwards a Groat, as I said before, out of pitty, and this in another Room, in presence of a Prisoner, at which time this Child went away as waggish as ever. Her coming with her Sister the *Thursday* following to Dine with me,

me, being the last time I spoke to her, and their unruliness before many Prisoners, justifieth she was not offer'd any violence the *Munday* before, yet the *Saturday* following her Mother vented her malicious designs of prejudicing me, unless she got the moneys demanded.

Behold the ungratefulness of this generation of Vipers : I relieved with part of my Dinner about ten weeks this Childs Mother, whom I saw was starving in Prison, and sucking of Bones I set aside for a Dog, during which time, I allowed to buy food for her Sucking Child, a penny, two pence, or three pence dayly ; after her being at Liberty, I assisted her whole Family, every other day, for near a years time ; I bestowed on her Husband an old Suit of Cloaths, Hat, Shoes, Stockings, and Gloves ; and on both her Daughters, moneys for the Cloaths they wore ; and for their Schooling half a year ; they having

not

not a Shift to their backs, nor Shoes to their feet, but what I bought for them. And because moneys grew scarce with me, that I could not continue my Charity, I must be rewarded with Iniquity; I must be accused to offer violence to her Child the only two times she came alone to me, and against my will in eleven weeks space, having never offer'd any such the whole year before, as the Child own'd it in open Court, altho she came to me every other day. Besides, what likelihood there is, that I had the least thought thercof, when I could have had her every day in my Chamber at a words speaking, and that on the contrary, I forbid her coming at all; but the matter was, the Mother was set on by my companions friends, and was promised moneys, which she was willing to accept at any score; believing, if I were once at liberty, she should never see me any more, as she often said.

This

This wicked Woman being ask'd by several, why she pretended her Child was abus'd, when she ran and play'd all day long, and look'd as well as ever she did; to which she answered divers times, as was justified in Court by her nearest Neighbours, that her Child ayl'd nothing, but that she would have moneys from the Papist Rogue. Yet although she had scarce one witness for her, but was known in the Parish, to be either a Whore, a Thief, or Perjur'd Creature; as I was credibly inform'd; and that none of them ever saw my face but in Court, excepting the two Midwives, that were brought by Catholicks to be for me, notwithstanding upon the false Oath of one of them, a Woman of a very bad Repute, I was cast, as I said before.

All being considered, 'tis not to be doubted, but this evil besel me by the instigation and malice of the five Reputed Priests and Jesuits, my fore-  
mention'd

mentioned companions ; for first, my Adversary being pitiful poor, and wanting Bread, could not Fee a Counsel, and Prosecute me without having assistance from others : Who then would encourage her, but those who saught all occasions to prejudice me, whose Petitioners in Prison, gave my Adversary every day a full account of what preparations I made for my own defence.

### Of Mr. O BRYAN.

They imploy'd one Mr. O Bryan, a Prisoner, whilst I relieved him with Mony and half my Dinner, as often as he told me he wanted Bread, to corrupt my Witnesses, and keep correspondence with my Adversary, who thereupon got into favour among Catholicks, being before in bad repute with them; this man being well vers'd in such Subtilties, as appeared in his conspiracy against the Duke of B. for which he stands charg'd in ten Thousand Pounds damage, and to stand in

in the Pillory, as also while he wrote under Doctor Tongue as a pretended Protestant, making now profession to be a Roman Catholick, getting the opportunity in my Chamber to Steal from me some old Letters, by which he Learn'd so well to counterfeit my hand, that he writ a Letter in my Name to the Arch-Bishop of *Canterbury*, rayling at the Catholick Religion, by shewing which to Catholicks, he got to himself great esteem for discovering a thing I never did, either by Letter or Petition, or any other means: Afterwards understanding I confirm'd the same by a Solemne Oath to Friends, then he adds, I writ for certain such a Letter, but I did not send it. To which I answer, that I take God to Witness, I never writ any such Letter to the said Arch Bishop of *Canterbury*, nor ever intended as yet to write. But this is but part of his Mallice and Subtilties. Now understanding

derstanding I am Writing a Book in my own Vindication which reflects on him, and on the rest of my Adversaries, he is taken up in new inventions against me, for which he is rewarded by my Adversaries, and the upholders of their Calumny; especially by Mrs. Catherine Sheldon and other manngagers of the Charities: among other Lies, he Publishes that there are several Points in this Book (which he never saw as yet) against the Catholick Religion. That I lost my Imployment with an Ambassador, for being found by him and his men, making use of a Woman at Night in the open Streets. I leave the examination of the Truth thereof to the Earl of *Fingale*, and an hundred others that can testifie the contrary, as also the unprobability of the thing.

'Tis not to be questioned, but that this man was the first Inventer of the Childs Mother Stratagem, thereby

to

to ingratiate himself with my Companions, and consequently with other Catholicks, otherwise, who can believe that one I never once offended in the least, and whom I endeavoured to oblige to the utmost of my power, by offering him half my Dinner while we continued Prisoners; by recommending him to every one I knew, having procur'd him above Twenty shillings at once, besides what moneys I bestowed on him of my own, should take an opportunity, while I sent for some things for his Eating, to Steal old papers from me to learn to counterfeit my hand; and this before the Childs Mother accused me, unless he designed this evil to me. This appears clearly by the following circumstances; for the third day after this Stratagem was divulg'd, a certain Catholick Woman being some days before Released out of Prison, knowing every thing that pass'd in my Room, which she kept clean

olean daily, offer'd of her own accord, to justify several things about the Child to my advantage, which the foresaid Mr. *Bryan* understanding, got the opportunity to call her privately to another Room, and to dissuade her from being my Witness, as she her self told me afterwards, declaring to her, I was to forsake my Religion, and that she would incur the Catholicks displeasure; so that when I desir'd her to give me in writing, before Witnesses, what she could say; I could not get a word out of her mouth; at laft, she said, I know what you write down is true, yet I do not desire to be concern'd. All this while I thought this Mr. *Bryan* to be my special friend, therefore I had chosen him for one of my Witnesses of what she could say; but whilst twelve lines were a reading, he interrupted me five times, alleadging he was then busie, he could not stay, he must go to Dinner, and so departed,

ted, altho I invited him to Dine with me, and that I told him that what I was about concern'd my Life. Being afterwards told by the Prisoners (to my great amazement) how I was betray'd by him, and how he diswaded the Woman from being my Witness, as she her self told me afterwards, believing no Gentleman would do as he did, or betray his Friends without any occasion of displeasure, I enquir'd of his old acquaintance what he was.

One Mrs. *Tent* a Taylors Wife did truly assure me, she knew him fourteen or fifteen years ago in *Dublin*, where she kept an house of entertainment, and when he us'd frequently thither playing at Cards, and getting his livelyhood by false Dice, his name then being not *O Bryan*.

Item one *Turner* from the County of *Wexford* in *Ireland*, wherein he had Thirty Pounds a year of his own inheritance formerly, being known in

London to all those that knew him  
 about St. James in the quality of a  
 Porter, to be a most honest and harm-  
 less man, did declare unto me, that  
 the said *O Bryan* was Born in the  
 same County of *Wexford* with him:  
 That he knew his Father and his  
 Mother, but of another Name, and  
 a Farmer. That their Sons Chri-  
 stian Name is indeed *Bryan*: That all  
 the considerable Towns and Villages,  
 this *Bryan* divulg'd, did belong here-  
 tofore to his Predecessors, were to his  
 knowledg the Lands of other Gentle-  
 men, who had the Inheritance there-  
 of from their Fore-Fathers: Others  
 that knew his Sister in Town here a-  
 bove ten years, can Witness she never  
 went by the Name of *O Bryan*. 'Tis  
 certain himself told me, how my Lord  
*O Bryan*, who countenanc'd him in  
*Holland* as his name sake, being there  
 inform'd he was not the man he pre-  
 tended himself to be, gave orders to  
 forbid him his house, yet he said he  
 justified

justified himself afterwards in *Eng-  
land.*

The said *Bryer* being ask'd by me, before we fell out, what he did up so excessive late every night, his answer was, he Studied designs. Well may I now be discredited, since all his Inventions against me are rewarded with *Moncys*, and asserted for real truth to every one by *Mrs. Catharine Sheldon*, and the rest of the Upholders of my Adversaries Calumnies. My comfort is, that he is only countenac'd by those who regard his Person more then his Honesty, he being a proper well Lim'd man. Others, as he on the like account, having occasioned before the rest of my Troubles.

All being considered, I was not only deceived in him, but also the Duke of *B.* and several others: Having persuad'd me that he was Heir to 4000 Acres of Land, I believ'd him as aforesaid: he assur'd me, that his Grandfather and Uncle were both Knighted

by the particular favours of this Duke of B. father ; a cunning device to persuade this Noble Duke not to Prosecute him for his foresaid late Conspiracy against his Grace. *Item*, understanding from me the name of the Lady that sent him the Quinney on my request, he presently told me, he was near related to her Husband, although an *Englishman*, and doubtless he had since considerable Relief on that account, the Gentleman himself being not in the Kingdome to contradict him. A brave man to be employed to persecute honest men !

'Tis no wonder he was so extraordinary skilful in his own Petegree, since he made it his Trade to justify ( by his ingenuity ) those he never knew but by chance. One Mr. King heretofore Servant to the Duke of G. and very well known to all the *Irish* in *London*, did assure me in this Prison, that the forenamed *O Bryan*, made it his Practise, being at Liberty to

to counterfeit Attestations for several Women, who make it their business to go a Begging all *England* over, some as pretended Ministers Wives, and others of other concerns, whose houses were destroy'd and burnt by Tories, &c. I know by experience in my Travels abroad, that the Kingdom of *Ireland* has sufficient occasion to bemoan the Injustice done to it, by the Practitioners of such false Attestations and Commendations: I know that pitiful mechanick people, whose Predecessors never had one six pence Revenue, betook the names of the greatest Noblemen in that Kingdom in their Letters of Recommendations, gathering under that Notion, great sums of Money in *France*, *Spain*, *Germany*, and *Italy*, Having their own Comrades, their Pages, Footmen, and *Vale du Chambers*. I know they us'd that Trade so often in them parts, that the name of an *Irishman* among them is most odious; admiring that

pretended Gentlemen, and persons  
 of Quality, did not know common  
 Breeding, and were all Beggars. Eng-  
 lish men can testify part of these  
 Cheats, if they will but call to mind  
 their old acquaintance *Clancy*, most  
 notorious in such subtleties: If Catho-  
 licks did but consider any of his de-  
 vices, they would not so fluently re-  
 ward the foresaid *O Bryan* for every  
 lying Letter sent to some of them  
 against me, unless they designedly  
 countenance him in what he doth, as  
 certainly the upholders of my Adver-  
 saries Calumny have often done, who  
 understanding I intended to bring  
 some of their Friends to question for  
 what they machinated against me;  
 nothing then must satisfy them but  
 my Life, of which they might have  
 easily deprived me, by the assistance  
 of certain Women they made use of  
 to that purpose, had the Grand Jury  
 no more Conscience than they; for  
 the said Women forc'd on me two  
*Midwives*,

Midwives, with design to take away my Life, for otherwise, would any ordinary creatures, as they were, deny to justifie the Truth to save ones life, and especially of a Catholick as they were, if they did not purposely design my Death: Also, can any one believe, if they did not resolve to have my Life, but they had so much command on these two Midwives they choose to be my Witnesses, as to dissuade them at least from Prosecuting me, which they might have done by once speaking to them. Furthermore, can any believe that the said Mrs. *James* would dare justifie by a false Oath in open Court, what the said four Gentlewomen, besides seven or eight Prisoners, could witness to be a Lie, unless it was concluded upon before hand, that none of them would appear against her, and that the Prisoners could not.

One Mrs. *Grey* a Catholick, being familiarly acquainted with my Adversary,

versary, and one of those that first took the Childs Examination, would not justifie the same at Court, because I told , it contradicted what the said Child said to others, least she should do me any service therein ; but contrariwise, both she and her Companion Mrs. *Cotter* a Catholick, did aggravate the matter to excess in all Companies, and this only out of malice, because this *Greys* Brother was Married to one of my Adversaries Sisters.

*Item*, one Mrs. *Martha* a Catholick, and an old Servant to the Lady *St.* understanding from one of my Protestant Witnesses, what she could justifie in my behalf, said , without considering what I had to say for my self, I deserv'd to be Punish'd, which discourag'd so this Witness, that she did not declare a word of what she promiss'd, and this only because one of my Adversaries Father was, her fellow Servant.

You

You may see what Roman Catho-  
lics we have in these days ; and how  
can we expect them to be otherwise,  
when those who ought by their pro-  
fession to instruct them in Virtue and  
Truth, are themselves the chief In-  
struments of Evil, and the promoters  
of Calumny and Lies, as I have justi-  
fied in the above five reputed Priests  
and Jesuits, besides others already  
mentioned.

It pleased God, after all their ma-  
lice, that the Court onely Fin'd me  
to the Head Bayliff of *Westminster*,  
who understanding my Poverty, was  
willing to forgive me his Fine, but my  
Adversaries to detain me a Prisoner,  
least I brought them to an account  
(as was Reported) of their misde-  
meanours, employ'd one *Nicholas*  
*Crouch* a Catholick to divulge of me  
that I was a Wealthy man, although  
they knew in their Conscience (if they  
had any) that I could not pay one  
penny in an hundred of the sum set

on me. This Schollar of theirs a Solliciter by calling, writ me a dozen Letters that he would do me a prejudice, unless I satisfied him in a most unjust demand, although he borrow'd of me about three pounds, and never paid me as yet: such are the grievances Prisoners are lyable to.

## *The true description of Wicked Women.*

Two against one is hard measure; but half a dozen to one is insupportable; yet I believe it is easier to resist the fury of twenty Rational men, than of one Incens'd woman. Malice and Envy is the last gasp of her departing Life, and if she Sounds or falls into a trance, her first thoughts are after her recovery. Obstinacy is the ground of her Fury, and Reason the least of her thoughts. Self will is the best of her understanding; and Justice,

Justice is an horrour to her Interest. The desire of her friend is her Law, and whom he hates is her mortal Enemy, although her constancy is guided by the Weather-cock. Vanity is the fruits of her labours, and to be flatter'd is her great delight, Reconciliation is so beneath her, that the very motion thereof incenses her the more ; so that woe to him that is entangled in her Hooks. 'Tis certain all the Devils in Hell can never prejudice man more than a wicked Woman. Saint Peter after denying Christ, by the malice of such a Creature, is said to have given this description of her : A Woman is more Pitiful than Man, more Envious than a Tyrant, more Malicious than a Serpent, and more deceitful than the Devil. But this doth not in the least reflect on Virtuous and good Women.

It was my misfortune to be ensnar'd by one I never offended in the least, and yet to comply with her Friend,

Friend, she has done me all the prejudice imaginable : I must confess Mrs. Catharine Sheldon in the begining of her rage against me has compel'd certain thoughts in my Head, the like I never harbour'd before, nor since ; for all my Adversaries together could never do me the hundredth part of the prejudice I received, had she not back'd them. She never saw but in Prison, whichh cannot but reflect much on her reputation, in forsaking one she knew for twelve years before, and in countenancing the greatest Injustice that can be for strangers sakes, altho she was not concern'd therein in the least ; and that I never gave her, or any belonging to her, except these my just complaints, as yet any occasion of displeasure : She can only say I would not yield to some extravagant propositions of my Adversaries, her Friends ; and that I said I would bring some of them to account for their Injustice to me, and  
*she will*  
 yet

yet there is no evil but She has practis'd against my Reputation, my Body, and my Livelyhood.

Tis evident there is nothing She wish'd more then my Death, and since God I hope has given her no power thereon, she is resolv'd to hinder my Liberty by diswading Catholicks from bestowing me any Relief towards my Release out of Prison; assuring them, I intend as soon as I am at Liberty, to impeach as well other Catholicks, as my Adversaries, so that she has done what lay in her Power to detain me always in Prison, or to Starve me therein.

My only request to the managers of the Charities given weekly for the maintenance of Catholick Prisoners was, that since I could be at Liberty any time this half year by paying an inconsiderable Sum of Moneys I owe, They would be pleased to allow my share of the said Charities to my Creditors in the same manner it is paid me,

me, until my Debts was satisfied. Who doubts but the Doners or Beftowers of such Charities would rather Grant their Moneys to release Prisoners, then to maintain them in Goal, as one of our best Benefactors has intimated to me already? yet Mrs. *Catharine Sheldon* bad Character of me has set such a terror in the Harts of the Distributors of the said Charities, that they have rejected all such Overtures.

After this, a certain Lady of Quality was pleased to Collect among her acquaintance near the Sum demanded for my Release, the which *Mrs. Catharine Sheldon* also hindred to be given me, by Publickly divulging that this Book is full of Invectives against the Catholick Religion, and that I am a deserter thereto: Who-foever Peruseth the same, will find no such thing, and therefore may justly conclude how false the rest of her Accusations be. Behold what a

Scourge

Scourge She is to me among my other afflictions! If she was ask'd from whence she had this Information, she cannot deny but she got it from the foresaid *Bryan*, a most Treacherous Man; or from Mr. *Power* a most notorious Hipocrite, or from some others of my Adversaries; which shews a great deal of Mallice in her to me, and very little Discretion or Wisdome, for giving credit to the Calumnies of my Adversaries, since the World knows there is no belief in the words of an Enemy.

I wonder she is so Subject to credit Flying reports, unless She knows her own Reverend Brother to be guilty of what was said of him, to which I never gave as yet any Faith. It would be expedient for her Reputation to be able to justifie one truth among hundred of Lyes She divulg'd of me these thirteen months past, I being now a Prisoner two years and a half, all which time I never

never saw her face. I am confident the will never find out one Lawfull and just Proof in confirmation of any one of her Scandalous reports of me; altho' I can find five hundred to confute her and her consorts, notwithstanding I suffer as if what she Publish'd of me was as true as the Gospell. I do not know to whom better to compare this Gentlewoman's cruelty to me (that never gave her any just distaste in my Life) then to those Women who Munder their own Flesh and Blood, the Fruits of their Womb, their dear and harmless Children, whom neither the fear of God, nor of the Laws of the Land could dissuade from so inhuman an Act, no more then my most civil Letters, my present condition and quality, could prevail with the said Mrs. *Carbarine Sheldon* not to prosecute me, one of her best Wishers in the Land.

Hence is clearly to be understood, that

that the said Mrs. Catharine Sheldon  
was the Principal Instrument for  
procuring those Catholick Women  
that brought the two Midwives to  
be my Witnesses, and afterwards  
perfwaded them to Swear against  
me at my Tryal.

But since God and my own Con-  
science are Witnesses of the wrongs  
done me, I thought it most necessary  
for the satisfaction of the World, to  
commit the whole Circumstance of  
every particular to the Press; not  
doubting but the Impartial Reader  
will comprehend as well the Injustice  
done me, as if he had been an Eye  
Witness to all my Actions, nothing  
being contain'd in this Book, but  
what I might leave on my Death  
to be true.

I was forc'd, for want of Moneys  
to bestow the whole sale of the Cop-  
pies to the Printer; And whosoever  
blames me for Printing the same,  
would undoubtedly do worse them-  
selves

selves in the like occasion. If any one of them was Robb'd of his whole Store or Patrimony, or was falsly accused of any Fellowions Action, by a pretended Priest or Jesuit, and was denied Restitution of Goods and Reputation, would he not Prosecute him, without any regard to the Scandal of his Religion? I have been Robb'd of my Reputation, of my Livelyhood, and of all future expectations of considerable Imployments by the Calumny of my Adversaries, and their supporters; and who can justly find fault with me for putting the Saddle on the right Horse?

*Fina Justitia, vel rata Culpa.*

**F. I. N. I. S.**

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